



Hockey Auctioneers
Bene't
Street,
1960s

232.55

Cambridge PROPERTY Chronicle

c.06 - Auctioneers, Estate Agents, house prices etc

1901

1901 05 02

Mr Arthur Rutter, head of the Cambridge Estate Agency, is to be complimented. Registers of landed estates etc are common enough but we believe the illustrated list he has just issued is the first of its kind. Preceding the thirty pages of "To be let or sold" are four pages, each containing five pictures of residences which he wishes to dispose of. The illustrations are excellently printed on art paper and the whole production is a credit to the agency 01 05 03

1904

1904 12 23

An important property sale was conducted, consisting of various properties in Sidney Street, one of the most central and important positions in the business part of Cambridge. Naturally there was a large attendance and the bidding was spirited. It included the coachbuilder's factory of T. Hunnybun, including carriage showroom and harness-maker's shop. These were withdrawn but sold after the sale at a considerably enhanced price; we understand they will continue their business in Hobson Street. A draper's shop occupied by F. Blott found a purchaser at £3,600. 04 12 23

1907

1907 James Catling joined the Town Council in 1900, bringing 30 years experience as an auctioneer and estate agent with an intimate knowledge of local properties. Only last week he was re-elected to the Board of Guardians upon which he had sat since 1876. His hobbies included

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horticulture, freemasonry and the Rifle Volunteer Corps. Since his marriage to a Bedford lady he has resided there, returning to Cambridge when public duty required. By his death the town loses a talented and conscientious public servant. 07 04 01

1907 09 04 'The Cambridge and District Property Register' published by Hockey, estate agents, comprises a list of 200 houses to be let or for sale. They vary in price from £75 to £2,500 with rents from £14 to £100. There is also a list of shops and business premises including seven lodging-houses. With several excellent coloured views this register is a very creditable production 07 09 04a

1908

1908 02 25

The sale of the estate of Mr R.R. Rowe, late Borough Surveyor, includes a block of property mid-way between the station and the Post Office which would be suitable for the erection of a college, church, hotel or other business purposes. The residence known as Park House on Parkside, together with houses in Fitzroy Street, King Street and French's Road are also offered in the largest sale held in Cambridge for some long time. 08 02 25 & a & 29

1909

1909 11 26

Harry William Wallis, auctioneer, said he taken over the business from his father in 1907 and paid off his debts. As well as the ordinary business of auctioneer he also bought furniture which he sold at his weekly auction sales. He got into difficulties after a man offered him very cheap bicycles for sale for auction but then had not supplied them. Amongst those to which he owed money was a bedstead make in Dudley, a furniture dealer from Bethnal Green, a cabinet-maker from Hackney and P.A. Stevenson a Cambridge outfitter CWN 09 11 26

1910

1910 05 13

William Hockey was the founder of the well-known auctioneering firm based in Bene't Street. As the agent for the De Freville Estate he had much to do with the development and planning of that part of New Chesterton which has rapidly become of so much importance. He also held an important and confidential position at Trinity College, where he was highly regarded, and was Secretary of the Excelsior Building Society. For the past 20 years he was a very well-known and popular figure in the business life of Cambridge. 10 05 13k

1911

1911 01 13

In their report on the state of the property market in Cambridgeshire Messrs Rutter and Company say business has been disappointing during 1910. Only a small amount of property has changed hands in Cambridge for investment but with properties for occupation there had been a very fair demand at satisfactory prices. This has been caused by the scarcity of medium-sized available houses to rent. They have had a number of letters from buyers intimating that they intend to wait until the question of taxation has been straightened out. Prices for farms have been well maintained but the present harvest has been a poor one and the market must feel the effect 11 01 13e

1912

1912 04 26

Arthur Tress Grain, founder of firm of auctioneers & estate agents – funeral – 12 04 26d

1912 12 20

The Mart in King Street has been constructed Mr J. Winship, the well-known auctioneer who has transformed what was originally a bare and ill-lighted bottling store into a fine salesroom. Soon 'The Mart' in 16-inch gold lettering will form a fitting crown to the red and gold colour scheme of the front of the premises. It is intended for the sale of furniture with a large skylight and powerful gas burners,

adequate ventilation and heating. From the rostrum the auctioneer can easily see buyers and no serious bidder will fail to catch his eye 12 12 20b

1913

1913 02 28

Mr J. Winship junior conducted his first furniture sale at The Mart, the splendid new auction rooms in King Street. They would conduct the business on business lines. They would have a sale when there was anything to sell and would not buy stuff to sell again. Furniture not sold would be stored and insured against fire free of cost and as the place was heated throughout by hot water pipes, the furniture would be kept in good condition. 13 02 28 CIP

1913 03 21

Messrs Hockey, the well-known Cambridge house agents testified that the owner of no.15 Lyndewode Road had asked them to sell her house. They sent particulars to 26 clients including Mr Neal who asked them to establish the lowest price, which was £1,000. Later the owner said she had sold it privately and disputed payment of their commission, offering three guineas instead. Hockey's agreed, providing it was not sold to Mr Neal. But he had bought it for £900 13 03 21 p5 CIP

1925

1925 03 09

We regret to announce the death of Alderman W.T. See. He entered the office of the late Mr James Catling, auctioneer valuer, house and estate agent, with whom he served for 25 years. He gave up his work and devoted himself to music and became well-known as a teacher of organ and piano playing. He was conductor for many years of the Cambridge Choral Society. About three years ago he re-entered business life, going into partnership with Mr P. Freeman, under the name of Messrs See & freeman, estate agents, Alexandra Street, Cambridge 25 03 09

1926

1926 09 28

An article in "Country Life" relates to the house, no.21 Madingley Road Cambridge in a choice spot beside the Backs which is included in an auction sale. "Everyone knows that building is costly, but there will be curiosity as to how as much as £6,000 could be spent in building a house in which the chief accommodation consisted of only six bedroom. Some four years ago an American laid out that sum on the house which is he now vacating. The auctioneer have orders to treat on the basis of market value, not cost, so someone will get a bargain" 26 09 28

1928

1928 10 23

What is probably the largest single deal in Cambridge business property ever known has just been completed. A well-known local young man has purchased property with frontages in Market Hill, Petty Cury and Sidney Street and this will be developed by a company consisting of Cambridge people. It includes premises occupied by the Craft Shoe Company, the Cambridge Chronicle offices and printing works and Boots the chemist. As Messrs Boots recently secured a large amount of property in Petty Cury and Sidney Street it would appear that big changes will be seen in this part of town when both sites are developed. 28 10 23

1934

1934 19 13

The Perne Road Estate. Charming modern houses from £400 freehold. Every house contains entrance hall, drawing room, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate W.C., H. & C. Water. Room for car. Small deposit (£25). Terms from 13/2 (65p) per week. Over 40 already sold. Drivers, Estate Agents – advertisement. 34 10 13

1935

1935 10 31

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Henry Philip Chalk was one of the best-known and respected auctioneers. He started business in Cambridge in 1880 as an agricultural auctioneer and valuer. Beside the stock sale which he conducted at the 'Earl of Derby' he attended the opening of the Cambridge Borough Market in 1885 at the same time as Mr A.T. Grain. In Linton he had a member of the parish council from its inception and chairman since 1907, a foundation manager of the church school and churchwarden for 54 years. In his younger days he was well-known as a fast bowler and represented Cambridgeshire at cricket 35 10 31a

1936

1936 08 22

Cambridge – and indeed the whole of East Anglia – has lost one of its best-known and popular auctioneers by the death of Mr A.L. Rutter. He had carried on business as auctioneer, estate agent and surveyor in Cambridge ever since he left St Catharine's College in 1898. He held office in several professional institutions and was at one time a warden at St Botolph's church where his funeral will be held. 36 08 22c

1937

1937 01 01

Douglas L. January started 1st Jan 1937 [NS3.2]

1937 01 13

Sidney Gordon Clark, antique dealer of Collins & Clark, dies – 37 01 13b

1937 04 19

The death occurred with tragic suddenness at the Gog Magog Golf Club of Percy William Gray, 65, who collapsed while practicing for a round. The club was immediately closed for the day. He was a member of the well-known auctioneer and estate agent firm, Gray, Son and Cook and was director of the Cambridge Waterworks and Gas Light Companies. In his younger days he played cricket, hockey, golf, rugby and 'soccer' and continued to hold various offices including President of the Cricket Association. He married Miss Strange, daughter of the Chesterton boat builder. 37 04 19

1938

1938 12 31

Arthur Rutter auctioneers and estate agents Cambridge branch sold to staff – 38 12 31

1939

1939 02 23

No.7 Petty Cury, comprising a double-fronted shop in the occupation of Messrs Lipton, the upper floors providing part of the bedroom accommodation of the Lion Hotel was offered for sale by auction. Shop property in the heart of the shopping centre of Cambridge seldom came to market by public auction and formed an excellent purchase for occupation, speculation or investment. It would be very difficult to find a much better investment. Demand was especially keen in Cambridge where the best shopping area was limited owing the centre being 'horseshoed' by college buildings. But it failed to reach its reserve and was withdrawn at £11,750 (about £650,000 today) 39 02 23a

1939 11 29

James Starr, a builder who was developing a building estate near Cambridge was approached by the Criterion Publicity Service about preparing a brochure describing the houses for sale. They would supply him with 250 copies free of charge, but had the right to obtain advertisements and retain the profits. But later they wanted £15 for printing blocks so Starr told them he would have nothing to do with the scheme. However they claimed £150 for breach of contract. 39 11 29a

1948

1948 04 22

The many friends of Mr Robert William Bell, auctioneer and estate agent, will learn with regret of his death. He came to Cambridge 35 years ago and became recognised as one of the best auctioneers in Cambs. He was particularly well known not only on account of his business, in which he had a great many connections with agriculture, but also because of his preaching activities in most of the Baptist chapels in the area. Mr Bell loved horses and was a familiar sight in days gone by with his horse and gig, which he reluctantly gave up when motor cars became the fashion 48 04 22

1954

1954

Watson's estate agents founded about 1880, opened in Cambridge 1954 – history – 71 11 23

1959

1959 12 30

The 'average' young couple, where the husband is earning £700 a year, should have no difficulty in the Cambridge of today in finding or building a house for themselves. If they have the kind of status that satisfies bank managers they can get financial help from the building societies up to about 95% of the purchase price of £2,250. Many people have a car nowadays which means a distance of seven miles is no serious obstacle and they can enjoy the advantages of living in the country. They would derive little benefit from renting a house: on the rare occasion that unfurnished accommodation does become available it would equal the loan repayments on a house of their own 59 12 30c

1960s *The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date*

1961

1961 05 27

'The Willows', a six and a half acre piece of land at Cam Road, was one of the few building sites left in Cambridge. It was just a mile from the city centre with outline planning permission for the building of 200 flats in six blocks ranging from two to 15 storeys. The proposed new trunk road and bridge linking Chesterton and Newmarket road will pass the site. But it failed to reach the reserve price and was withdrawn from auction at £50,000 61 05 27

1962

1962 12 22

King Street poultry mart held its last Christmas sale. It has existed for nearly 50 years and now the auctioneer Claude Kirkup and clerk, Alfred Harding will retire. Mr Kirkup, a well-known figure, has dealt with about 1,000 chickens, turkeys and geese this week alone. He started in the mart in 1918 and was joined by Mr Harding in 1922. The site was purchased recently by Jesus College 62 12 22

1965

1965 04 02

Westley & Huff, estate agents partnership dissolved; formed in 1951 65 04 02a [1.1]

1965 03 27

Two and three-quarter acres of freehold building land at Grange Road with planning permission for 60 flats and 67 garages sold for £26,000 an acre at auction. Building of high-class flats will start 'almost immediately'. This was probably the best piece of land ever made available for this type of development in Cambridge, said Douglas January & Partners 65 03 27b

1966

1966

Catling Brady & Bliss formed - James Catling started as auctioneer & estate agent 1871, Brady joined 1895, Bliss 1959 [1.3]

1967

1967 11 29

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New partnership between Grain & Chalk of Chatteris & A.T. Grain & Sons; become Cheffins, Grain & Chalk [1.2]

1969

1969 05 15

Edward Storey Foundation Trust sell 5 lots city centre land for £ 521,000 as want rebuild Shelley Row almshouses [1.6, 1.7]

1969 07 02

Sale city centre property including Arts Cinema, Miller's Music, Eaden Lilley warehouse, Jarrolds – 69 07 02

1971

1971 03 19

Council paying equivalent of £ 300,000 an acre for parts of Lion Yard site, University want over £770,000 for 1,165 square yards of land entrance new car park [1.9]

1971 07 07

Catling Brady and Bliss celebrate centenary; started by James Catling in Free School Lane; Brady joined 1895, Bliss in 1959 – 71 07 07

1971 11 23

Watson's estate agents founded about 1880, opened in Cambridge 1954 – history – 71 11 23

1972

1972 03 24

Kingston Street terrace house needing great repair fetched £3,050, leaves auctioneers gasping - year ago £1,500 [1.10]

1972 04 13

Millington Road 3-bed house sells £26,250, £10,000 more than year ago [1.11]

1972 06 12

Wilderspin Close neo-Georgian house doubles in year - £11,950 to £25,000 [1.12]

1972 07 14

Terrace house without bath, Halifax road £9,000 [1.13]

1972 07 20

Grantchester Meadows semi sells for record price - £25,600 [1.14]

1973

1973 05 04

House prices fall to new low, well below 18 months ago [2.2]

1973 06

Coleridge Road house prices :

1930s £450

1946 £2,000

1955 £2,500

1965 £4,000

1970 £5,000

1973 £10,000 [2.3]

1973 06 16

Crisps, Kings Parade bought by Kings College for £ 120,000 [2.4]

1974

1974 04 25

City centre sit including Arts Cinema, Millers & part of Eaden Lilley auction, withdrawn at £687,500 (bought 1969 by David Robinson for £230,000 [1.5])

1974 04 04

Coral Estate, 1.5 acre site Coldham's Lane sold for almost £100,000 for industrial use [2.5]

1974 01 11

When Cyril Brady started in a Cambridge estate agents and valuers a new semi-detached house in the city sold for £425 cash or you could rent it for 14s.9d. a week. Now those same houses run to five figures and rent comes out at around £40 a month, unfurnished. The figures reflect the changes in the 41 years that Mr Brady has been in partnership which has been running under the name of Catling, Brady and Bliss since 1969 74 01 11

1977

1977 07 21

One of the most striking features in the property market has been the resurgence of interest in the small terraced city house in the Romsey Town area. Fifteen years ago one could have bought a two up, two down, for about £1,350. By 1967 the price was £2,200 rising to £5,500 by 1972 and is now £8,500 – and increase of 530 per cent. In De Freville Avenue a semi which cost £3,000 in 1962 is now £15,000, and in Queen Edith's Way the figures are £3,350 and £14,500. A post-war semi in Cherry Hinton has risen from £10,000 to £15,000 in the five years from 1972. 77 07 21

1978

1978 06

House prices rocketing by £1,000 a month; 3-bed pre-war semi which £12,500 at Christmas now (June) worth £17,500 [11]

1978 07 19

County Council want sell 16 acres housing land off Northfields Avenue as has adequate for its needs, expects £0.5 million [2.6]

1978 11 21

One of Cambridge's most successful businessmen, Mr Douglas January has died. He built up an estate agent's enterprise from modest beginnings in 1937 to one of the largest in Cambridge, with branch offices in the main market towns in the area. He was also widely known in other community fields and was responsible for the successful fund-raising drive behind the launch of the Cambridge sports hall. He was President of the Cambridge Golf Union & Amateur Boxing Club and local sports clubs eagerly sought his patronage. 78 11 21

1979

1979 03 29

Building land equivalent £ 100,000 an acre [2.7]

1980

1980 07 12

One of the biggest private houses & the last commercial farm in Cambridge is up for sale. Rectory Farm on Madingley Road, built 16 years ago, is regarded as an outstanding neo-Georgian design with five reception rooms, six bedrooms, two bathrooms and a swimming pool. It is set in three acres of mature gardens & could fetch around £250,000 80 07 12 [2.8]

1981

1981 07 31

130,000 an acre paid for 3.5 acre site Coleridge area; previous record £80,000 acre, Gilbert Rd [2.9]

1983

1983 01 25

Land Pound Hill sold equivalent of £560,000 an acre [2.10]

1983 04 07

Cambridge is close to the top of the house prices league with prices for terraced house comparable to those in parts of Greater London. A three-bed roomed post war terrace in a very desirable area can be as high as £45,000 compared to £21,000 in Ipswich, £31,500 in Brighton or £30,000 in Oxford 83 04 07 p13

1985

1985 10 24

“Little under £30,000” [2.11]

1986

1986 01 30

Prices of terraced houses in the Cambridge area have gone up by 25 per cent in a year and now average £36,346. Flats and maisonettes have risen 20 per cent to £28,885, while semi-detached houses are up 14.2 per cent at £40,700. But detached homes have increased by only 5.2 per cent to £58,927. First-time buyers are borrowing around £28,600 on incomes of about £10,960. Funds are easily available and people still consider that buying a house is probably one of the best investments they can make, says the Halifax Building Society 86 01 30b [2.12]

1986 04 04

Average price Cambridge now £57.000 [2.13]

1986 09 25

“Spiralling house prices drive out city buyers” [2.14]

1987

1987

Januarys taken over by Black Horse [NS2.7]

1987 01 28

City land tops £700-£750,000 an acre (? industrial) [2.15]

1987 03 27

Cambridge’s oldest firm of solicitors, Francis & co which was founded in 1789, is to merge with Norwich-based Mills and Reeve to become one of the largest practices outside London. The move follows the merger of leading local accountants Chater & Myhill with Peat Marwick, the UK’s leading accountancy practice. And it takes place during a period of extraordinary upheaval in estate agency which has seen the acquisition or merger of many firms including Ekins, Mullucks, Hunters, Gray Cook, Regent Estates and Watsons. Almost all of them have been absorbed by insurance groups or building societies. 87 03 27a

1987 05 20

Estate agents, Cheffins Grain and Chalk are to merge with agricultural specialists Comins to form a new company. They will open a residential sales office in Soham and Cheffins will expand its Cambridge Machinery Sale. The merger occurs at a time of continuing turmoil within the estate agency business as national institutions take advantage of new rules to move on to the property scene.

At least nine local agents have been involved in takeovers by banks, building societies or insurance companies. 87 05 20

1987 12 22

More than 500 Christmas turkeys, chicken and geese went under the hammer at Cambridge's turkey auction. Prices for turkeys from 62-83p per lb while chickens fetched 62-72p lb. The biggest seller was a king-sized 35lb stag turkey. 87 12 22

1988

1988 08 12

Drivers estate agents change name to Cornerstone [CEN 12.8.88]

1988 12 30

Hunters Estate Agency to change to Wm H. Brown from Feb 1989, was set up 1984, merged with Brown 1986 [CEN 30.12.88]

1989

1989 02 27

Arnolds estate agency renamed Halifax Property Services, was founded 1974, acquired 1988 [CEN 27.2.89]

1989 05 11

Clark Turner estate agent office sold Town and Country [CEN 11.5.89]

1989 10 25

Solicitors Winter Wilkinson closes due house market slump - opened June 1987 CEN 25.10.89

1990

1990 03 28

Cambridge's most luxurious flat is one of three penthouses in a new block called The Oast House at Pinehurst South off Grange Road. It has three bedrooms with a spiral staircase leading to a striking room like a Kentish oasthouse with a 25-foot ceiling and glass doors on to a roof garden. It will have all the luxury fittings expected including a video surveillance system. The Cambridge-based developer Nigel Grimshaw says "Nothing approaching it has ever been offered in Cambridge". The developers have produced a 52-page book listing its attributes 90 03 28a, b

1990 04 10

Desmond January retires after 50 years in estate agency; houses that sold for £750 in 1938 now make £120,000 – profile – 90 04 10b

1990 04 28

Southacre Park, Chaucer Road, site of mansion in 1880 which housed royal princes Albert & Henry while undergraduates now developed into luxury houses - 90 04 28c